

PRESIDENT: LR 149

CLERK: Mr. President, LR 149 is a resolution offered by Senator DeCamp and Senator Frank Lewis. Read resolution. Mr. President, that resolution was read and laid over yesterday. It can be found on page 238 of the Legislative Journal.

PRESIDENT: Senator DeCamp.

SENATOR DeCAMP: Mr. President, this resolution is an important resolution. For that reason, I will discuss it briefly, and if people want, allow it to go to a committee for a full hearing because I think the implications of the resolution are somewhat ominous and extremely significant. What does it deal with? It deals with the whole problem of equalization. What is equalization? Equalization is the fundamental question, the fundamental problem, in state aid, in our property tax system, in everything. Now for the past seven years, that situation, the equalization, the handling of our property tax has deteriorated to the point where our system now, our property tax system and our financing of education in this state....

PRESIDENT: Senator DeCamp, could you advise the Chair. You are not, then, asking for the adoption of this resolution, that it be referred to the Reference Committee.

SENATOR DeCAMP: I am asking for the adoption. I suggested if there is a feeling on the part of the body that they want to have it go to the Reference Committee and go through that process, I won't oppose it, but I am speaking for the entire adoption at this point unless that other posture is taken by the members.

PRESIDENT: All right. Excuse me.

SENATOR DeCAMP: What the resolution does then is it says, okay, we have all talked on this floor for seven years about the problem of property tax and equalization and we haven't got anything done because apparently we aren't exerting the proper controls over the people that are supposed to be doing something and, thus, we have a \$30,000 house here taxed and valued as \$5,000 and a \$30,000 house somewhere else or close-by valued completely differently. The whole theory of success in a tax system is that like property is treated in a like manner. So this bill says immediately the Executive Board sets up a special committee consisting of all committee chairman of the Legislature, a committee vested with whatever powers are necessary and with staff from the Executive Board or assistance and begins looking into where we are, what needs to be done, what officials are or are not performing their duties, and then before this Legislature gets out, the committee makes recommendations to the Legislature in terms of, in terms of any legislative changes and in terms of any actions that may or may not have to be taken to insure these laws are enforced and that we do have equalization. There is no use trying to continue a property tax system unless we are going to start having it a fair system. Senator Lewis is a co-sponsor of the resolution. We would welcome anybody else that wants to be a sponsor. I would urge you to read it. It was read rather rapidly here and it is difficult